



# Department of Property & Procurement

Government of the United States Virgin Islands

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[HTTP://DPP.VI.GOV](http://DPP.VI.GOV)



August 18, 2015

**AMENDMENT #2 IFB019VNGT15(C)** Qualified contractor(s) to furnish all labor, materials and equipment for the Installation of Chain Link Fence at the SFC Leonard B. Francis Readiness Center, St. Thomas, VI

**INSERT: *Clarification to Questions***

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS REMAIN UNCHANGED

BIDDERS MUST ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THIS AMENDMENT WITH THEIR BID PROPOSAL.

## **QUESTION & ANSWER(s):**

**Question 1:** What is the exact location of the 1.5 Acres of property to be cleared?

Answer: The land to be cleared is the perimeter of the land described as Parcel No. 1, Estate Nazareth, No. 1 Red Hook Quarter, and having the following metes and bounds description as delineated on P.W.D. Map File No. C3-112-T74:

Beginning at the junction of Red Hook road and the access road to Compass Hill, thence easterly along the Red Hook road for a distance of approximately 550 feet, thence in a northerly direction approximately 1,130 feet, thence in a westerly direction approximately 450 feet, thence along the access road in a southerly direction to the point of beginning.

**Question 2:** Is that area of land under the restrictions of Fish & Wildlife that property must be hand cleared and sit for a certain time period as noted with endangered Boa law?

Answer: Yes, attached is the guidance from Department of Planning & Natural Resources.

**Question 3:** Who on site will show exact point of where fence should be installed?

Answer: The exact point should be determined by the site survey. We would like to maximize the space that we have and still tie into the existing fence. Mr. Ewaldo Allen shall be the local point of contact for any questions pertaining to the project.

**Question 4:** Are there any other specifics on the Bermuda seed? Is it the hydro seed type or the dry seed?

Answer: No. Either type is fine.



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

6291 Estate Nazareth

St. Thomas, VI 00802-1118

Phone: (340) 775-6762, Fax: (340) 775-3972

**SITE CLEARANCE PROCEDURE WHERE VI TREE BOAS ARE PRESENT**

Prior to any mechanical site clearance, the following conditions must be met in order to avoid a direct violation of local and federal laws:

1. To the extent possible all tracts of wooded habitat and associated understory outside the footprint and setback of the building and not required for infrastructure should be retained as tree boa habitat. Connectivity with habitat on adjacent property should be retained.
2. All personnel involved in site preparation and construction must be verbally instructed on the importance of snake protection and preservation and all procedures developed for that purpose. Personnel will be informed of the penalties for injury to any snake encountered.
3. All personnel will be instructed in identifying this snake and photographs of the VI Tree Boa will be prominently displayed at the site.
4. At least 10 days prior (if under 1 acre) to be cleared to the use of heavy machinery on the site, the site is to be flagged and vegetation cut by hand, saving trees where possible. Any stone walls or naturally occurring rock piles must be carefully dismantled by hand as these are refuges for the snake. This will allow any boas present to vacate the site without injury. If the area to be cleared exceeds 1 acre then the resting period is two weeks.
5. Any trees with trunks greater than 7 cm diameter that are destroyed should be placed in undisturbed habitat to allow snakes hiding in tree holes to vacate.
6. The DFW or an on-site agent should be notified of any snakes observed or captured. If a snake is in imminent danger, the snake can be moved by personnel trained and authorized by DFW to undisturbed habitat outside the construction area that has been pre-approved by DFW. If no undisturbed habitat exists near the site, the landowner or agent shall identify a suitable release site in collaboration with DFW prior to any vegetation clearance. A permit from DFW under section 2(b) of the Cooperative Agreement will be required for all personnel involved in any snake handling or relocation activities.

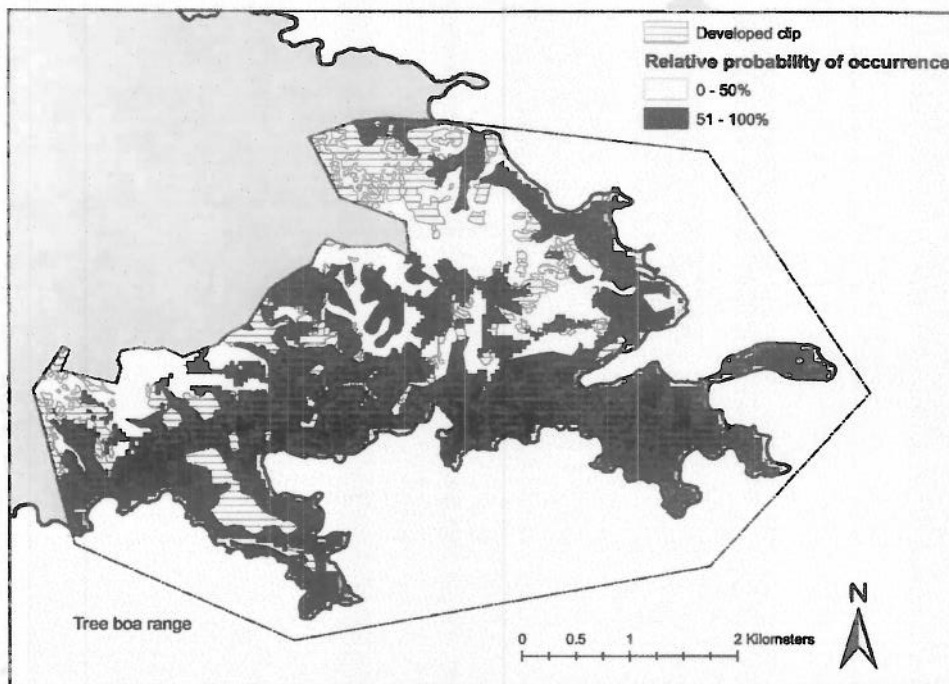
7. Once these measures have been completed and the hand-cleared site has been inspected for the presence of any boas, heavy machinery may be used to clear the remainder of the site.

The DFW may be called during any of the above steps to assist with snake removal or to verify compliance with these recommendations. Please note that any boas killed or injured at the site will constitute a violation under the federal Endangered Species Act, which can be avoided by carefully following the preceding steps. For further information, please contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife, (340) 775-6762.



## Threats

**Habitat Loss and Fragmentation.** On St Thomas, unconstrained and unmitigated habitat loss and fragmentation is the primary cause of decline of this species. Since the initial ESA listing of the VI tree boa, there has been considerable habitat loss within the range of the species on St Thomas. Estimated demarcation of the range encompasses approximately 1391 hectares acres on the east end of the island (Harvey 2010), an area which has seen a lot of development in the past few decades (Figure 4). Despite an economic downturn that halted construction projects between 2008 to 2011, many new projects are slated for this area and construction has begun again in 2011.



**Figure 4.** Extent of development (red) and VI Tree Boa occurrence (black) on St Thomas (Harvey 2010)

Based on a Rapid Ecological Assessment (REA) conducted in 2000 using 1994 aerial photos by the Caribbean Data Center, approximately 800 ha comprise vegetation that is potentially occupied by boas (mangroves, shrubland, woodland, dry forest, and certain herbaceous habitats, Table 1). The REA was revised in 2009, based on 2007 aerial photos (GeoCon 2009), indicating a 17% decline in vegetation cover potentially occupied by boas with a 7% increase in developed areas. While the overall potential habitat available remains at around 800 ha, because areas of low intensity development were included as potential area of occupancy for boas, the increase in development puts into question the sustainability of intact habitat (Harvey 2010). This assessment also does not take into account the location, quality, extent, or connectivity of these vegetation types.